

John Lewis left Nova on 22nd April 1983, after his final show, which finished at 6.00am. Lawrence John replaced him on the 'Night Owl Prowl', a very middle of the road type presenter.

Peter Madison re-joined Nova in early April, but not as a broadcaster, as the tutor in the Nova Broadcasting School project, which started on Saturday 23rd April. Brian and Jean McKenzie are also involved.

Chris Cary is still going ahead with the 50kw station promised, although not at the Mosney site. Aerials are going up at the Nova Park site in Rathfarnham, but almost certainly not long wave. The station, supposedly to be called XIDY or Exody, will be aimed at the U.K. I understand that Chris intends to use English presenters, although at the present time, he does not have that many working on the station, Tom Hardy, Peter Madison, Martin Block(news-reader) and himself, so there may well be openings for yet further ex-offshore D.J.'s and others.

Latest legislation news today(28th April), indicates that the Irish Government, has been informed by the Post and Telegraphs minister, Ted Nealon, that he intends to set up an independent body to control local broadcasting, and that anyone can apply for a licence. (Whether or not they will get one, is anyones guess).

South Coast Radio's new transmitter seems to be settling well, and reception is very good during the day and the night, here in Blackpool. Transmitter engineer Keith York is doing regular 'drive-time' shows once again, now that the main t/x work is completed. The new station manager is Don Stevens, and is settling in well, doing quite a number of programmes from time to time. Self-employed Tony Allan can be heard on news at the weekend, in addition to Blackpool's Andrew Hewkin and ex -Sunshine, Siobhan Walls.

Barrie & Ruth Johnston,
"Anoraks U.K.",
P.O. Box 539,
Blackpool.

Tuesday 24th May 1983

The Irish Station situation....latest news.

Over the past few weeks, everything in Ireland has been ticking along quite nicely. There was hardly any news to report, apart from the fact that Chris Cary was preparing to put on a 50kw. transmitter. The thought that this could be the lull before the storm went through our minds. As it turned out, this was exactly the case. We cannot decide whether this heralded the end of an era, or the beginning of a new one, but one thing was for sure, it was dramatic, emotional and sudden.

Wednesday 18th May 1983, time, 9.20am, place, 19 Herbert St., Dublin 2 (home of the studios of Radio Nova and KISS FM). The D.J.'s on the air at the time, Declan Meehan and Bob Galico on Nova, and Mike Moran on KISS. All of a sudden, on the studio close-circuit TV screens appeared P + T (Post Office) men and uniformed Guardai (Police), at the front door, attempting to gain admittance. After some delay, these people were admitted, and after entry, requested that both stations cease broadcasts. This was refused, due to the fact that they had only warrants to enter the Rathfarnham transmitter site. Keys for this place were requested, and again after some considerable delay, these were produced. Some time later, after the arrival of the officials, both Nova and KISS went off the air, but not before all the listeners were made aware of the exact position. One of the final messages stated that they would return as soon as possible.

All the transmitting equipment was confiscated, including the new 50kw t/x which was not even on the air. It took a whole day for the authorities to remove this vast system.

The channels remained silent, and people hastily re-tuned to other stations, who in turn carried the news.

At about 4.00am next morning, Thursday, Nova returned, but on low power, and normal programmes resumed until just after 1.00pm, when an announcement was made to the effect that Nova would close down officially at 6.00pm that evening. The listeners were invited to help by petitioning their M.P.'s and attending a march on a later date, and by attending the actual close-down at 6.00pm at Herbert St. Dramatic scenes followed and many thousands attended the close-down, all filmed by RTE and video companies. The listeners were treated to just as dramatic a close-down as the people actually there. In the mean-time the owner of Nova had appeared in court and the case was adjourned till later.

During the Thursday, a similar raid was carried out at Sunshine Radio's studios in Portmarnock, north of Dublin City, resulting in that station being silenced from approx. 9.45am., and all their equipment confiscated. Court appearances would follow.

Panic followed, and several stations voluntarily closed down. ERI and SCR in Cork about an hour after Sunshine's raid. Leinster, West, C.R. Fingal, Bray followed later.

The medium wave band seemed empty without these stations, but slowly they started to re-appear. ERI, after about six hours, Fingal over the weekend, SCR, last night (Mon) at 6.45pm.

The thing that caused the main stir was a carrier on 819khz most of the day on Saturday. At 9.00pm on Saturday evening, it sprung to life, Nova was back, again on low power, but as the days have gone on, this power has increased noticeably. Normal programmes resumed on the Sunday and the station is now broadcasting as if nothing had ever happened, much to the delight of many thousands of faithful listeners. Despite the lower power, it was even picked up in Kent last night.

A 'day out' was hastily organised by 'Anoraks U.K.' and the whole of Sunday was spent visiting people involved in this radio fracas in Dublin and surrounds. The general feeling in Dublin, was one of optimism, after the initial shock of what occurred. The people there are looking to the court appearances due this week, as these may indicate the way radio may go in Ireland.

Several stations at this point in time are still off the air, awaiting the outcome of the court cases pending.

Over the next few days, several items are to be added to the 'Anoraks U.K.' merchandise lists. They are:- A documentary cassette narrated by John Lewis covering the events of the past week as heard by the listener, incorporating the main close-downs, and the reports by other stations of the happenings, plus the returns, and interviews with various people involved. Video cassettes of news bulletins and the Nova close-down. Photo package of the dramatic scenes outside Nova and Sunshine, and of a get-together on the Sunday, of the main people. Photostat copies of the main news-paper stories.

THE GREAT IRISH RADIO EXPERIMENT - THE END?
DOCUMENTARY CASSETTE NARRATED BY JOHN LEWIS.
COS - £3.00 INC. P&P.
(OTHER ITEMS TO FOLLOW)

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As at Saturday 28th May, Nova is still broadcasting normally. Sunshine and several others are still silent. The march through Dublin on 27th attracted about 15,000 people in support of the stations. Nova's court case was adjourned yet again until 1st ~~JUNE~~ 1983.

MON 30th MAY

DUBLIN COMM. BROADCASTING
1134 KHZ 25M M.

TUES 31st MAY.

**Barrie & Ruth Johnston, "Anoraks U.K.",
P.O. Box 539,
Blackpool.**

**RADIO WEST MOVED TO 729 KHZ
RADIO NOVA MOVED TO 828 KHZ.**

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The Irish Station Situation..Post Raid Sheet No. 3..Wednesday 8th June 1983.

Following the two raids of 18th and 19th May 1983, the local, national and international press have had a field day reporting the happenings. They contained a lot of truth and quite a lot of incorrect information. To quote one Irish newspaper, 'We were trying so hard to get it right, that we got it wrong in the end'. Photocopies of most of the newspaper cuttings are available from the above address (Thirty odd sheets!).

Below is a report of the happenings as we heard it on the air, on the telephone and first-hand, from the people involved, on a trip to Ireland a few days after it all happened.

Radio Nova were raided on the morning of Wednesday 18th May 1983. The authorities called at the studios of Nova and KISS FM at 19 Herbert Street, Dublin 2, at around 9.30am. They had no warrants for the studios, only for the transmission sites, and merely wanted the keys to these places, which were duly handed over a little while later, when the key holders were located. Despite this, they requested that both stations ceased broadcasting at once. This request was refused and as a result, the public were informed of what exactly was happening. Just over an hour after this visit, the plug was pulled by Nova/KISS staff, after which, the equipment, valued at just under a quarter of a million pounds, was removed. This took the authorities the best part of the day to do, and involved many people, and much expense, to the tax payer in Ireland. An injunction was taken out immediately by Chris Cary, the owner, to challenge the authorities on the action they had taken, and to get the equipment back. The court case was adjourned twice, and it looks likely that a decision could be made, one way or the other on 10th June.

In the meantime, Cary obtained further transmitting equipment and managed to get back on the air at about 4.15am next day (19th), resuming normal programming shortly after, albeit, on much lower power.

At about the same time as the raid on the Wednesday, Sunshine received the same team at their transmission/studio site on the Thursday. Again, they took all the transmitting equipment, but this did not take as long to do, as Sunshine did not have as much equipment as Nova. All the same, it was valued at about £40,000. A similar injunction was taken out by Robbie Dale, the owner, against the authorities.

When Sunshine was silenced, several other stations became alarmed, and voluntarily closed down. These were :- Radio Leinster, Bray Local Broadcasting, Castle Radio, Radio West, Community Radio Fingal, ABC in Tramore, Radio Dublin Channel 2, Triple TR, South Coast Radio and ERI, the latter two, situated in Cork City. Just after 1.00pm., on the Thursday, Radio Nova announced that it too was to close down at 6.00pm. This they did, in a blaze of glory, rallying much support along the way. The other stations were split, as to what to do, some returned within hours, ERI and ABC, although the latter on much reduced power, whilst others just waited to see what happened. Some even went as far as ripping all the studio equipment out.

Friday 20th dawned without the two super-pirates and people hastily re-tuned to Radio Dublin who took the initiative to organise the march in protest, on the following Friday. Nova and Sunshine staff even appeared live on Dublin's broadcasts. Other people re-tuned to Boyneside Radio, and to Carousel, who just happened to be celebrating five years on the air, on that day.

On the Saturday night (21st) at around about 9.00, Nova returned yet again, and have been on the air, broadcasting normally since. KISS was promised to return also, but on 8th June, it was announced that Nova would split at 7.00 each evening, Nova staying on the AM channel of 828khz (which they moved to on Monday 30th), and Supernova on 88FM. This would run till 11.00 each evening. Other stations slowly returned to the airwaves, South Coast Radio on Monday 23rd., Fingal, Triple TR, Bray and Radio West later. Radio West moved to the dubious channel of 729khz., occupied by RTE in Cork, but later returned to 702khz. ABC went back on high power, Dublin's channel 2 returned and both Leinster and Sunshine promise to return. The latter even went to the trouble to print its own newspaper, Sunshine Review. As yet, they have not returned, nor, we understand, has Castle Radio in Ballina.

A march from the GPO in Dublin to Leinster House was extremely successful.

Despite all the problems, a new station appeared on 29th May, calling itself, first, Dublin Community Broadcasting, then, Community Radio 257.

Station staff moved around regardless of the happenings. Hugh Brown left South Coast and joined ERI on Monday 23rd., John Lewis joined South Coast on Friday 27th., after holidaying for three weeks in Blackpool. It was reported that he had left Ireland under dubious circumstances. This was not so at all, he merely needed a break, as he had done a midnight till six am show for some considerable time over there. David Malone and Stevie Dunne both left Sunshine. Finally Dave Windsor joined ABC in Tramore.

It was reported last Friday, that the government intend to leave the existing pirates alone, until such time as legislation is introduced and local stations are ready to go on air, except if they interfere with other airwave users.

The court cases of 10th June were lost by both Nova and Sunshine, therefore the cases against them will be heard in October, when they will get back all the equipment and be fined the maximum amount of £100.

Sunshine Radio returned officially at midday on 12th June, following tests.

Barrie & Ruth Johnston,
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Irish Independent Radio Station News...Sheet No.4...Monday 20th June 1983.

The two raids of 18th and 19th May 1983, on Nova and Sunshine, respectively, are now fading into the history books. It was loosely stated however, that the present stations on the air could remain there, until such time as legislation was passed and I.B.A. type authority had been set up to organise local radio. The exception to this was, if the present stations interfered with any other airwave users, they would be put off the air. It appears that the P & T(Post Office), who are responsible for this, have taken a softer line of approach. On two occasions last week, they contacted stations informing them of interference and advising them to cease transmissions with the offending equipment. They were Sunshine Radio, broadcasting on 531khz. They ceased transmissions on this channel, at just before ten o'clock, on Wednesday 15th June, and have not as yet returned, although programmes continue as normal on FM, 100.5mhz., locally, and 101.5mhz., further afield. It was stated in 'Captains News' on Radio Dublin on 19th June, that the transmitter had blown up. This is very much in doubt, as the Captain has been known to purvey incorrect information before. He went on to state that ABC Radio in Parnell Street, Dublin had had a visit from the P & T, late in the week, and that they had ceased transmissions on 891khz. This is in fact a true statement, and ABC are currently off air. It has been known for some time that ABC have had a harmonic signal in the marine band.

Sunshine Radio returned to the airwaves in a blaze of glory on Sunday 12th June, following tests. The station was welcomed back by hundreds of people who phoned in with congratulations. Unfortunately, this was only to last till the Wednesday, as explained above, as being only on FM meant that the listening area was greatly reduced. However the station sounded extremely fresh and lively, and was picked up initially in many parts of Great Britain. One or two presenters had moved on, and new ones had taken their places. David Malone, head of news, left, to join Nova, Tony Fenton left. Tony Garrath joined, from Nova, and Robin Ross starts on Thursday 23rd June, from ABC in Tramore. Present line-up: Midnight - 6.00am., Paul Vincent...6.00 - 9.00, David Lyons...9.00 - midday, Robbie Dale...midday - 4.00, Andy Rue...4.00 - 8.00, Tony Garrath...8.00- midnight, David Denehey. Saturday and Sunday see some weekend presenters, Martin King, Tony King, Greg Merriman, Bill McGloughlin, Tony Dixon, Eugene Higgins, Paul Allen etc.

Radio Nova, following their move to 828khz on Monday 30th May continue broadcasting to Dublin on 1kw. They appear to have acquired a new FM transmitter, which was brought into use on Thursday 9th June, with a good stereo signal. From Wednesday 8th June, Nova split transmissions at 7.00pm. Supernova on 88FM, featuring the popular Dennis Murray with his rock show, whilst Nova continue normally on 828, until 11.00pm. Occasional weekend specialist shows are featured on Supernova, the Country Programme on Sunday morning, and the Classical Show on Sunday evening. Again, it was stated on Radio Dublin, that the authorities had returned Chris Cary's 50kw transmitter to him. It is not yet known whether this is true or not. We should soon know if he puts it on, however. Present line-up: Midnight - 6.00, Lawrence Jonn...6.00 - 9.00 Declan Meehan (and Bob Galico)...9.00 - midday, Tom Hardy...midday - 3.00, John Clark...3.00 - 6.00, Greg Gaughran, 6.00 - 9.00, Colm Hayes,...9.00 - midnight, Jason Maine. Weekend presenters: Chris Barrie, Hugh O'Brian, Scott Williams, Mike Moran and others.

South Coast Radio, following problems with rain getting into the electricity meter box, went off on the evening of Friday 10th June. The small transmitter was once again, brought into use, until Wednesday, 15th, when they returned on full power(1.8kw., with a 200ft. aerial on a hill). John Lewis joined the station on Friday 27th May, after holidaying in Blackpool. It must be pointed out that John left Nova on good terms and was not sacked or asked to leave, despite current rumours to the contrary. In the absence of Tony Allan(at Nova for the time being), John is making many adverts and jingles. Present line-up: mid-night - 3.00, Nick Richards...3.00 - 6.00, Paul Cassidy, 6.00 - 10.00, Don Stevens,...10.00 - 1.00, Peter O'Niell...1.00 - 4.00, Alan Reid,...4.00 - 8.00, Keith York....8.00 - mid-night, John Kenny. Weekend presenters: George Long, Steve Douglas, John Lewis and others.

Other staff movements: Dave Windsor joined ABC in Tramore at the end of May. Stevie Dunne left Sunshine to return to work in Denmark as Stevie Gordon, once again.

Radio Leinster has not yet returned, but it is understood that they may be seeking other premises to broadcast from. Castle Radio in Ballina has not returned, we understand, but we are awaiting further information on this one. The long established Westside Radio on shortwave, appears to have closed down(for about six months, according to owner/operator, Prince Terry)

Both court injunctions taken out by Nova and Sunshine, both failed, meaning that the equipment will not be returned until October, when their court cases are heard.

FM radio conditions were superb over the past weekend, thanks to high pressure over the British Isles, and many extra stations were received on FM in many parts of the U.K. In Blackpool, both Sunshine channels were received, Radio Nova on 88.28mhz., Triple T.R. on 97.69mhz., Arklow C.R. on 98.9mhz., and Radio Dublin on 98.8mhz., plus many continental stations. Sunshine and Nova were received in excellent stereo.

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Sunshine Radio returned on medium wave at 5.00am., on Thursday 23rd June, but with lower power. ABC Radio also returned(Tues.21st), on 1017khz instead of 981khz.

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Irish Independent Radio Station News....Sheet No. 5...Monday 25th July 1983.

Now is probably the best time to look at the individual stations, as everything seems to have quietened down, plus the fact that it is holiday time in Ireland as well. A new station list was finally put into print, 20th July, not before time, but, in view of the recent happenings, and the fact that several new stations have sprung up, this delay was inevitable. Whilst we try and make the list as accurate as possible, it is very likely that this latest list is probably only 90% accurate. Still a start must be made some time, and we hope very shortly to follow this list with a more accurate one.

Sunshine Radio: Operating normally, still low power on AM at present, but FM is excellent and probably reaching further afield than the AM. It can certainly be picked up on transistors along the West coast of the U.K. and even as far inland as Leeds with extra antennae and amplifiers. Obviously, high atmospheric pressure helps FM signals to travel further, and with the recent spell of high pressure/good weather, stereo Sunshine is not uncommon on this side. Staff movements have been many, the two main ones were Robin Ross joining from ABC in Tramore, and Tony Gareth from Nova. The latter is now on holiday and his place has been taken by Gareth sound-alike, Barry Salvey from C.R.257.. Robin Ross does much behind the scenes work, hence appears on the air only occasionally. Martin King has not been on recently, but ex-regular presenter Eugene Higgins has reappeared at the weekend. Tony Fenton now only does the top 40 show on Saturday, and also at the weekends, Jim Edwards, ex-ARD, has been heard. News readers are a-plenty, headed the talented and very popular Cathy Creagan.

Radio Nova: As Sunshine, operating normally now, although as in the above case, the FM signal is probably travelling further than the AM. Promises of higher AM power and the return of KISS FM abound. Many staff are away on holiday, resulting in a return to four hour programmes, Monday 25th July. Many Nova 'All American' Roadshows are being run, not only in Ireland, but also in the Isle of Man, where Bob Galico remained stranded, due to fog(25th). The news department are excelling themselves, by going out and getting their own stories. Tony Allan and David Malone are two of the main news-team. Siobhan Purcell from the team left after the raids, and the non-return of KISS FM.

South Coast Radio: Again, operating normally, lots of adverts, private and agency, coming in. The only problem seems to be with the electricity and the storms. Several breaks in transmission have occurred over the past few days, through these reasons, being no fault of the station at all. Don Stevens seems to have made himself extremely popular with his 'Sunrise Special' breakfast show, which features many of the old off-shore American jingles adapted to South Coast's needs. His show is slick and as mentioned, very popular, particularly with the ex-offshore listeners, many of whom are able to tune in to the most powerful station in Ireland. Nick Richards still remains No. 1. as far as the above listeners go, with John Lewis No.2, unfortunately only on air at weekends, and then at a bad time for English listeners(4.00pm - 8.00pm.). Keith York also does an excellent show, but again, at a bad time.(weekdays, as above).

E.R.I: Still the underdog in Cork, or Munster, as they prefer. They have a good signal which gets into the U.K., although on a bad channel. It is reported that Steve Marshall is no longer with them, and with Stuart Scott, Andrew Hewkin and Paul Graham all leaving, only leaves 'Daffy' Don Allen there, as far as names go. All other presenters are Irish, many local lads.

A.B.C. Radio in Tramore: The only holiday station in Ireland, but having said that, they do operate all the year round. It just happens that Tramore is a miniature Blackpool, and in the Summer, the adverts flow in, whereas in the Winter, they have to go out and find them. They have a holiday guide in print, a super little booklet, complete with photos of D.J.'s and lots of stories about the area. Anyone wanting one could send an I.R.C. to ABC Radio, Tramore in County Waterford. I am sure they would be delighted to send you a copy. Their signal on AM is still superb, and reaches many parts of the U.K. in the daylight hours. A recent trip to Barmouth in West Wales saw ABC as one of the loudest stations on the dial. Dave Windsor seems to be the star of the station, a second Tony Allan, was how one person described him. All the D.J.'s are popular and work hard. Most of them are ex-offshore, but some local talent is used.

Radio West have been moving around the dial, for reasons not yet known. They started on 1071, moved some time ago to 702, After the raids, moved to 729, a bad choice, then to 765, and finally disappeared about two weeks ago. Then last week, Nova was heard being relayed on 684 by an unknown transmitter, and on 765, which on Saturday suddenly became Radio West, again. All the above stations use large professionally built transmitters, capable of wide coverage in terms of distance.

As regards the smaller stations, Westside on 1035 closed down due to interference with a computer. They hope to return soon. ABC in Dublin, on 1017 closed down after being told to leave the hotel they were situated in. They, too, hope to return. C.R. 257 moved about ten days ago to 1116 from 1134, after causing interference to Dublin's channel II. Capitol Radio, on FM last Summer, were hoping to use 1116, but are now looking elsewhere on the dial. A new station in Ballina, Westward 314, replaces Castle.

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Irish Independent Radio Station News....Sheet No. 6...Thursday 4th August 1983.

Irish station news seems to be slightly overshadowed at the moment by many newspaper and television reports that Radio Caroline could return in the very near future. We shall not go too far into that here, as this is Irish News, but will make mention of the above reports in Ireland.

Dublin's 'Evening Herald' carried a smallish piece on Caroline's return first of all, last Thursday(28th July). It has not yet been established where the report stemmed from, but one thing is for certain, it was not put out by the Caroline organisation, as in cases such as this, the less printed and fewer people who know about it the better, until it is actually on the air. Radio Nova made mention of it in their 'look at the papers' spot at 5.15pm., with David Malone. The record, 'on my way back home' by New Riders of the Purple Sage was played immediately afterwards. South Coast Radio were intending to cover the story in their mid-night news, but declined at the last minute(wisely, I think), due to their not being too sure if it was true or just another rumour. Further reports appeared in the British Press and on Television, yesterday(3rd), and Nova gave this some coverage in their extended news bulletin at 1.00pm., and again in 'Dublin Today' at 7.00pm. They had an interview with journalist, Stewart Payne of London, over the telephone.

On now to things happening actually in Ireland. Steve Marshall, as mentioned in the last sheet, left E.R.I. He has now joined Cork City Local Radio, and did his first programme on Monday last, 1st August, on the breakfast show. C.C.L.R. are one of the smaller stations in Cork, and as far as we know, the signal cannot be picked up outside Ireland. But having said that, I am sure Podney will prove me wrong, he lives in Cornwall. We think C.C.L.R. broadcast on 1143khz., but they tend to move about from time to time, and have several annoying harmonics in the city of Cork.

It was suggested in a letter this week that Daffy Don Allan is not on the air at E.R.I. As far as we know, he does his Country and Western Jamboree Show, once a week, plus various news reports from time to time.

Quickly looking around the country area, following a trek by colleague, Kieran Murray, several stations seem to have vanished without trace. Kerry Local Radio, West Coast Community Radio in Galway, Radio Ennis, Drimnagh and District Local Radio in Dublin to name four known ones. This leaves several areas of the country without their own local station.

Meanwhile back in the capital, new stations spring up almost daily. C.R.257, a new one since the raids, seem to be now firmly established in the city. Metro Radio appeared on 1557khz., last Sunday(31st July) from Clontarf, Dublin 3. They have been on each day since, and are inviting advertisers to contact them by telephone. This station may pose one or two problems when South Coast Radio return to normal power shortly. They may find themselves having to move channel slightly(maybe to 1530khz., now vacant).

The mysterious 'relayer of Nova and SuperNova' on 684khz., is probably the same person who did likewise on 999khz., before the days of U.K.'s Red Rose Radio. He has identified the station as 'Nova Southside' but mostly relays the Nova signal when on the air.

There are several stations on FM only in Dublin, whether or not, they are here to stay, remains to be seen.

Holidays at Nova, are still causing the four hour shift to continue, and several well-known names are still away. Lawrence Jonn unfortunately met with a car accident, and could be in hospital for some time. He did the weekly Night-time Nova show, and his place has been taken by Mike Moran at the moment, although I am informed that the very popular Peter Madison, who we have not heard on the air since March may well be in line for this temporarily vacant spot. It is also understood that, Peter will be doing the Isle of Man Roadshow this coming weekend. At present, he too, is on holiday in Wales, no doubt, 'Anoraking'away like mad.

Radio West seem to have got their problems sorted out now, and are back to regular programmes on 765khz.

Although not actually heard here, we understand that 'Westward 314' may well have moved channel to 945khz., from 954khz., to avoid splatter with The Irish speaking network of R.T.E., Radio Na Gaeltachta, from Anagry in Co. Donegal.

Radio Carousel in Dundalk haved moved their FM outlet to 100.7mhz. It will be interesting to see if it can be received in the U.K. during good conditions.

Ex-K.E.L.O. radio presenter, Joe Jones can be heard most mornings on Comm. Radio Fingal from Swords, Co. Dublin. They too, have an FM outlet now, on 90.0mhz.

Finally, I wonder if Dun Laoghaire Local Radio are looking for a new channel. Their present one is 963khz!!!

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Irish Independent Radio Station News....Sheet No. 7...Thursday 8th September 1983.

All the radio news at present seems to revolve around the return of Radio Caroline. Lots of reports and pictures appeared in the British and Irish Press, although it was first reported on 28th July, as previously stated, in the Dublin Evening Herald. Several of the Caroline presenters have had Irish station experience during her absence, including Andy Archer(Nova and ERI), Robin Ross(ABC in Tramore and Sunshine), Tony Gareth(several Dublin stations including Nova and Sunshine), Tom Anderson never worked in Ireland though. Other names at hand for Caroline include Mark Lawrence(South Coast Radio). Roger Matthews has disappeared from his station in Ballina..now, I wonder...Others would only be too pleased, I am sure.

Stevie Gordon, along with ex-Sunshine colleague, Tony Fenton, are merrily working in discos in Denmark.

Meanwhile, back in Ireland, the scene is very healthy once again, as long as none of the stations get too big for their boots. Legislation looms, but it has done since the mid-seventies, so this is nothing new.

The early part of August saw the departure from Nova of Tony Allan, for the last time, I am told...we shall see. He continues to do advertising work for other studios, and his voice can still be heard daily on numerous adverts.

On 7th August, Nova experienced serious jamming of their 828kHz transmission by persons unknown, certainly not the authorities, probably by someone with a grudge. This appeared again on the 9th of the month, so Nova moved to 819kHz., to the delight of U.K. listeners, but the jamming followed, so they moved back and forward countless number of times during the day. However on the following day, whilst on 819kHz., the jamming ceased and they have stayed there, beaming a superb signal into the U.K., apart from a brief spell on 2/3rd September, when the power in Rathfarnham failed.

Captain Eamon Cooke in his 'News' on 7th August gave a good report about Carolines return, which proved to be very accurate indeed.

The great £6,000 giveaway was duly executed on the morning of Tuesday, 30th August 1983, during the Declan Meehan Breakfast Show. It commenced just after 08.00 and at 08.56, the fiftieth caller, Dolores Carney, rang Nova from her work in Trim, Co. Meath and won herself £6,000. It was very exciting at the time for everyone, I understand it put great pressure on the Dublin telephone system. Dolores was brought by taxi from Trim, to the studio where she was presented with her prize. The Dublin papers carried several pictures and stories later in the day, and other radio stations carried the story in their news bulletins.

KISS FM has failed to materialise, although Supernova continues each evening and at weekends, with specialist shows etc.

During the middle of the month, Sunshine Radio obtained another transmitter and set it up. The signal is far stronger now, in the U.K., but still lacks the sparkle of the Optimod system(this is still in the hands of the Irish P & T. Although it will shortly be handed back along with transmitters etc., following the court case due soon).

Other stations come and go almost on a daily basis. Metro Radio, appeared a few weeks ago, but has now vanished. Blanchardstown Community Radio appeared at 14.00 hours, as advertised, on 7th August. Capital Radio-Dublin made a brief appearance on medium wave(1017kHz), but vanished shortly after ards due to causing interference, although they continue on FM only. Many FM stations appear from time to time in Dublin city, a bit like the Sunday pirates in the U.K.

South Coast Radio continue on low power, but improvements are promised very shortly. Their transmissions are missed in many parts of the U.K. during this period, as this station is very professional and features many well known free radio names. However, Caroline being on, has tended to compensate a little for this loss.

Finally, rumour has it that there is possibly a new station being set up in one of the more remote parts of Ireland. It could be quite a big station and feature well known names....time will tell on this one.

Radio Nova first off this time, and lots of news here. Tony Gareth left Radio Caroline on 10th September and returned to his home town of Dublin. After a short break, he returned to Nova on Friday 30th Sept., standing in for Tom Hardy who left for a holiday in California. Tony hopes to eventually get a regular spot on KISS FM which incidentally returned on the same day on 102.7mhz., with a M.O.R. format. The FM signal can be received in Blackpool, but not in particular good quality due to the poor conditions.

The famous Radio Nova court case following the raids of last May took place on Tues. 11th October. They were found guilty and fined £25! The equipment will be returned within 14 days. So, Chris Cary now has plenty of transmitters to play with, but it is very doubtful if we shall ever hear the 50kw t/x from Ireland. I suppose it seems feasible to expect KISS FM to appear on the medium wave band.

No jamming has been reported and Nova continue on 819khz., advertising 828khz. Four hour shifts still operate due to staff holidays.

Sunshine Radio's court case is imminent and similar 'punishment' can be expected, along with the return of all equipment.

Following the departure of Robin Ross and Tony Gareth for Radio Caroline, further 'name' disc-jockeys were sought for the presentation of shows. Apparently Tony Gareth declined any offer to return and on Monday 3rd October, the well-known Alan West took the job of programme controller, doing some odd evening programmes, the Saturday 'Survey' and eventually settling on the breakfast show, with newly returned from working in Spain, Dierdre Mullen. This has only lasted for a week, as today, the young lady did the programme alone. On enquiring at the station about Mr West, we could only get a 'no comment' in reply. So time will tell what has happened there.

ABC Radio in Tramore suffered a loss of British listeners for a few days at the beginning of the month, due to an enormous increase in power by ILR Downtown in Belfast. The power has returned to normal now, allowing us to listen to ABC once again. Quite a mystery there why they should do that for a few days only.

ABC lost the services of mega-Anorak D.J., Dave Windsor at the end of the first week in October. He has joined Cork City Local Radio in Cork and did his first programme on Monday 10th October. Steve Marshall is also on this station, and it is also reported that Anna Craig from Radio Leinster and the one and only Tony Allan are also there. This could be the makings of another super-pirate station, especially after the reports that they had bought a 10kw transmitter.

On now to the remaining super-pirate, South Coast Radio. They finally got their 10kw transmitter back on the air on 28th September on the next channel to theirs, 1566khz. much to the chagrin of Big 'L' in Limerick who occupy this channel. I assume that they will have had to move to 1575khz., although we are not too sure and will not know until a visit is made at the end of the month.

Immediately the big transmitter came on, jamming occurred, presumably from RTE in Cork, and continues. A pre-recorded message explains to the local people (the jamming does not reach outside Cork) exactly what it is, and asks them to write to their T.D., or complain to RTE.

South Coast have remained on 1566khz and their signal can be received well into the U.K. both day and night. I assume that the other spare transmitter will now be put into use on the short wave band, allowing still more people to enjoy their excellent programmes.

As usual, lots of smaller stations spring up and disappear just as quickly. Capital on 1017khz., seem to be here to stay this time, Anabel, first on 1035, then on 981khz., vanished last week, but are reported to be about to return. They have engaged the services of well-known Peter Madison, so they must be serious about the thing. Galaxy were picked up at the weekend on 1134khz., from Santry, but purely a hobby pirate. Metro returned on 1557khz., but reports state that it is a different one from the station which appeared there a few weeks back. Community Radio 257 are off and on, and have now moved up to Sunshine Country, the Country Club at Portmarnock, no less! News on the stations far West is a bit thin, and it is not known whether or not Trallee has a station at all. Or Galway for that matter, no news at all from there, although Sligo reports that Radio Sligo is still going strong.

DAVE WINDSOR NOW LEFT C.C.L.R.

TONY ALAN LEFT C.C.L.R. but still in Cork.

More news than usual this time, no doubt due to the fact that our team made a quick tour of the country from 28th October until 3rd November 1983.

We shall start with the biggest station first, Radio Nova. As mentioned in the previous sheet, they had their court case and have now got all their equipment back. They immediately put the 10kw transmitter back on 819khz, although still announcing 828khz. This occurred on 27th October, whilst the few days before, Nova could hardly be heard in the U.K. at all even during the day. This was due to using a temporary aerial whilst a new one was erected. So, now they are back on full power and everything looks very healthy there. With Christmas coming, adverts are pouring in. KISS FM is operating as normal, although playing slightly smoother music during the day and specialist programmes from time to time.

Present line-up on Nova:- Mid-night - 6.00am., Lawrence Jonn, 6.00am - 10.00am., Declan Meehan, with Bob Gallico...10.00am - 2.00pm., Tom Hardy...2.00pm - 7.00pm., Greg Gaughran...7.00pm - 7.30pm., Dublin Today Programme...7.30pm - mid-night, Jason Maine. Weekend presenters...Tony Gareth, Hugh O'Brien, Mike Moran.

KISS FM presenters:- Colm Hayes, Chris Barrie, John Clarke, Dennis Murray, Scott Williams.

News-readers:- Sybil Fennel, David Malone, Ken Hammond, Bob Gallico, Dave Harvey.

Bryan Dobson has left to join BBC Radio Ulster. He started there on 7th November.

Next in line is Sunshine Radio. Staff problems have caused a few headaches there. Alan West is now station manager but does no shows on the air. Dave Windsor joined them from ABC Radio in Tramore and did his first Breakfast Show with Deirdre Mullen on Monday 24th October. Deirdre did the previous week on her own. This lasted only until Friday 4th November, when Dave Windsor left. He called himself Oscar Murphy on the air. He has since returned home to Kent quite disillusioned with the whole Irish scene. Where does he go now, we ask, Caroline?

Present line-up is:- mid-night - 6.00am., Paul Vincent, 6.00am - 9.00am., David Lyons, with Deirdre Mullen, 9.00 - mid-day, Robbie Dale, mid-day - 4.00pm., Andy Rue, 4.00pm - 8.00pm., Martin King, 8.00am - mid-night, David Denehy.

South Coast Radio, a station beset with problems. Having got their big 10kw t/x back on the air on 28th September, jamming followed and then the transmitter failed yet again exactly one month later, resulting in the much older very small transmitter being brought back into use, yet again. The listening area is drastically reduced with the latter. Still they are at least on the air, and with FM also.

Present line-up:- Mid-night - 3.00am., Nick Richards, 3.00 - 6.00am., Spinner, 6.00am - 10.00am., Don Stevens, 10.00am - 1.00pm., Peter O'Neill, 1.00pm - 4.00pm., Alan Reid, 4.00pm - 8.00pm., Keith York, 8.00pm - mid-night, John Kenny.

Weekend presenters Steve Douglas and George Long. News staff, Siobhan Walls, Andrew Hewkin and Jim Lockhart.

Apathy has set in with the management and this has reflected on to the staff, but not on to the air. Several staff are reported to be leaving, but have not done so as yet.

In the meantime, ERI are cleaning up in Cork, grabbing all the local adverts etc. South Coast did get one up on ERI though in that they had a live outside broadcast from the Jazz Festival over the Bank Holiday weekend 30/31st October, which ERI were unable to do. Only Daffy Don Allen remains on ERI in the way of well-known names. Steve Marshall, as reported previously went to join Cork City Local Radio, as did Dave Windsor and Tony Allan, although the latter two left within days, which speaks for itself. Whilst we were in Cork, CCLR could only be heard, and then very poorly, on FM.

In Limerick, Mike Richardson's Big 'L' seems to be in a strong position, and very well run, although he keeps having to change channel from 1557 to 1566 and back, due to SCR's antics. Big 'L' now have four superb FM channels on air, covering virtually the whole of the South of the country, with more promised for Killarney and Galway.

The other station in Limerick, Radio Luimni, seem an improved station, on 1008khz only.

A new FM station in Nenagh was logged on our trip. It seemed quite good.

Back in Dublin, the smaller stations come and go. Metro has disappeared, Annabel has returned on 1035khz., Capitol on 1017khz play albums only, Royal Dublin and South Dublin C.Radios are on FM only, C.R.257 from Portmarnock are on 1116khz and FM.

Finally, an interview with Tony Gareth can be found in 'Monitor' No. 25, and an interview with Robin Ross will appear in Offshore Echos No. 50.